

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 6, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. The applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the application. In particular claims 8-11 and 13 stand allowed.

By this amendment, Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-14 are pending.

Claims 1-5, 7, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,611,518 to Ngo et al. (hereinafter "Ngo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,673,933 to Bauer.

As noted above, Claim 15 has been cancelled.

It is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 1:

A plurality of switches, each possessing three poles;

A first plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one input pin to a **first pole** of exactly one switch;

A second plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one output pin to a **second pole** of exactly one switch;

A third plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one connector to the **common pole** of exactly one switch

Further, it is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 14:

a switching apparatus;

a first plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one input pin to a **first pole of the switching apparatus;**

a second plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one output pin to a **second pole of the switching apparatus;**

a third plurality of wires each electrically connecting exactly one connector to a **common pole of the switching apparatus;**

As explicitly admitted by the Examiner, "Ngo et al. does not disclose the use of a plurality of switches each having three poles so that one input pin can be connected to a first

pole, one output pin can be connected to a second pole, and one connected can be connected to a common pole" (Office Action, dated December 6, 2004, p. 3), as essentially recited in Claims 1 and 14.

It is respectfully asserted that Bauer does not cure the deficiencies of Ngo and also does not teach or even remotely suggest the above-recited limitations of Claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that "it is clear that each switch shown in FIG. 4 of Bauer comprises a common pole and two different poles designated for the switchable input/output" (Office Action, dated December 6, 2004, p. 5). Bauer explicitly describes Figure 4 thereof as illustrating the SPST (Single Pole Single Throw) switch 50 provided at each intersection (Bauer, col. 3, lines 40-41). In Figure 4 of Bauer, reference numeral 54 represents a horizontal row line, reference numeral 53 represents a vertical column line, reference numeral 52 represents a terminal and reference numeral 51 represents a switch operator, which all relate to a SINGLE POLE SINGLE THROW SWITCH 50. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in any combination, disclose all of the limitations recited in the pending claims.

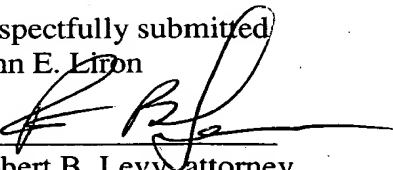
Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from Claim 1 and thus include all the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2-5 and 7 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited reference for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of December 6, 2004 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-7, 8-11 and 13-14 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-9832

Respectfully submitted
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